

As an avid radio listener, I have become more and more frustrated and disheartened with the lack of ingenuity, creativity, and candidness of the radio medium. The Telecommunications Act of 1996, with its promises to foster competition with its deregulation, brought drastic changes to the state of broadcast radio—changes, in my opinion, that have been for the worse. It seems that several large media businesses have a monopoly over commercial radio making the quality of programming suffer at the cost of profit. The lack of choices in formats and opportunities for originality has severely deteriorated the credibility of radio.

I am not naïve; I understand that commercial radio is a business. In an ideal world, the listeners of radio would have more of a say in programming rather than the advertisers; however, we clearly do not inhabit such a model society. Thus, there are options like non-commercial radio and LPFM's. However, rather than being an outlet for individuals to have a voice in radio, LPFM's, due to the inadequate restrictions on ownership, are being operated by the same organizations which completely counteracts the original purpose. It seems like déjà vu all over again; the fresh, novel local programming is just not there.

Things will only get worse if the FCC allows for LPFM's to be transferred or purchased. How can the FCC guarantee that these stations serve the public's interest without overstepping its boundaries? Many of the current LPFM's do not follow what the FCC ideally had in mind; shouldn't we

work on regulating these stations first? The promises of more diversity on the radio have not been met with the LPFM's, and this must be worked on most importantly.

It is time that the individual listener had a say in radio. Evidently, the listeners are just the pawns of commercial radio; we are left with only homogenous, monotonous programming. It is crucial that the FCC take the needs of the people into consideration in making their decision over LPFM's. Allow these stations to serve the needs of the public, based on what each community wants, not on what those with power think is best for the people.

Thank you.